

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01058 110736Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 MCE-00  
EB-08 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 /074 W  
-----114685 111300Z /46

R 110715Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7913  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC (DSAA)  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
USAF HQ WASHDC  
CINCPACAF HQ HICKAM AFB  
CHJUSMAGTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 01058

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PCAT, MASS, TH, US  
SUBJECT: RTG REQUEST FOR P & B DATA ON GAU-8/A MACHINE GUN

1. THE RTG HAS REQUESTED P & B DATA FOR MODIFIED GAU-8/A 30 MM MACHINE GUN FOR USE ON THEIR F5E AIRCRAFT, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY THIS SPRING. THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS WEAPON, TOGETHER WITH A BRIEFING TO BE GIVEN ON THE SUBJECT BY EITHER JUSMAG OR GENERAL ELECTRIC (THE MANUFACTURER).
2. THE RTG EARLIER ESTABLISHED A REQUIREMENT FOR ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY FOR THEIR F5 FORCE AND PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED RELEASE OF THE AGM-65A (MAVERICK) MISSILE SYSTEM TO MEET THIS NEED. THIS REQUEST WAS NOT FAVORABLY CONSIDERED BY THE USG.
3. WE HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY FOR THE RTAF. ALTHOUGH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 01058 110736Z

IMMEDIATE THREAT OF EXTERNAL ARMOR ATTACK APPEARS LOW, WE CANNOT DISCOUNT SUCH A THREAT IN THE LONGER TERM. (THE PRESENT UNSETTLED SITUATION INVOLVING VIETNAMESE FORCES IN CAMBODIA DOES NOTHING TO ALLAY THE LONGER TERM CONCERNS OF THE THAI IN THIS RESPECT.) INTRODUCTION OF THE GAU-8/A WOULD PRESENT A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN AIR-TO-GROUND CAPABILITY FOR THE RTAF AND WOULD, OF

COURSE, BE MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN THE OTHER ALTERNATIVES WHICH THE RTAF HAS BEEN CONSIDERING (I.E. AGM-65A, A-10 AIRCRAFT).

4. THE RTG CONTINUES TO SEEK COST-EFFECTIVE WEAPONRY TO MEET THEIR PERCEIVED FUTURE THREATS AND REMAINS FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF PURCHASE OF U.S. DEVELOPED SYSTEMS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR LEGITIMATE NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES, AND THE PROVISIONS OF THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. WE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE RTG REQUEST.  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, MACHINE GUNS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO01058  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780016-0400  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780178/aaaacnkz.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5797eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3796093  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RTG REQUEST FOR P & B DATA ON GAU-8/A MACHINE GUN  
**TAGS:** PCAT, MASS, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5797eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014